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4.(amended) A stress-free lead frame (1) as claimed in Claim 3 further characterised by said holes and slots being arranged in multiple rows.

5.(amended) A stress-free lead frame (1) as claimed in Claim 2 further characterised by said interlocking means (16) being a plurality of slots.

6.(amended) A stress-free lead frame (1) as claimed in Claim 4 further characterised in that said holes and slots are arranged side by side at equal intervals.


Please add the following new claim:

7.(new) A stress-free lead frame (1) as claimed in Claim 5 further characterised in that said holes and slots are arranged side by side at equal intervals.

**Remarks**

Applicant has amended the specification to include priority application information. The claims have been amended to correct drawing references and to correct claim dependencies. New claim 7 corresponds to a portion of original claim 6. No new matter has been added. Copies of the new section and amended claims are attached hereto on a separate page.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Attorney Docket No. S1436/7005  
Date: July 20, 2001  
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